

OPINIONS OF COLLEGE SENIORS ON CERTAIN FACTORS
CONSIDERED IMPORTANT FOR MARITAL SUCCESS

A THESIS
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DEDICATION

THIS THESIS I DEDICATE TO
MY SON
BRIAN KEITH

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My thanks and gratitude to Dr. Huey Charlton who took time from a very busy schedule to read and criticize parts of this thesis at various stages and advise me generally on the entire formation of the study. My hearty thanks to Dr. Robert Smothers for his help with my statistical analysis.

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Chapter I.

Introduction

Rationale.--What is distinctively human comes from the fact that man lives his life in groups, with other people. Thus, in order to handle the business of living, man has invented and developed a range of social institutions.¹ The institution that is of concern in this thesis is marriage. Since marriage is the one institution where an individual spends a great deal of his life in connection with another, he makes it convenient for his purposes, to organize his wants and aspirations to best satisfy his behavior.

The more people associate with one another under conditions of equality, the more they come to share values and norms and the more they become like one another. The interrelationship of marriage rests on shared values and shared contact. The shared values include not only those associated with social positions such as educational status, age, class, or ethnicity, but beyond that they reflect such matters as attitudes, tastes, beliefs, and behavioral norms.

Looking at marriage from the viewpoint of the latter shared values, this thesis is organized into four main sections. Although the entire thesis looks at opinions of

¹ Bernard Berelson, Gary A. Steiner, Human-Behavior-An Inventory of Scientific Findings (New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc., 1964), p. 383.

college seniors on some matters hypothesized as criteria for marital success; the first section deals with religion, the second deals with money, the third deals with premarital sex and the fourth deals with personality traits. These matters were explored as they are related to marital success according to college seniors.

What are the concerns of our college youths as they sort out from the many possibilities, that person they feel will make for greatest happiness in marriage. Are matters of personality compatibility, comfortable wealth, religious togetherness and sexual compatibility such that confront these students today as they consider marriage? If marriage for them is to be authentic, will these concerns make it so?

People tend to marry people who are in various social ways like themselves, rather than to marry people with differing characteristics. The similarities included, in rough order of importance, the social characteristics.¹

1. Race-One percent of marriages are interracial.
2. Religion-Even when religious intermarriages occur, it is shown that they led increasingly to the conversion of one partner or the other, and hence the re-establishment of socio-religious unity within the family.
3. Socio-economic and educational status-People tend to marry those like themselves.
4. Age-Wives of older men are older on the average than wives of younger men.

¹ Ibid., p. 306-307.

5. Previous marital status-Persons remarrying tend to marry those who have been married before.
6. Residential Propinquity-People marry those living close or near by.¹

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Marital adjustment and happiness are more likely:

1. The more alike the marriage partners.
2. The better adjustment of the partners during the courtship period.
3. The higher up the level of education of the partners, or their socio-economic status.
4. The more religious they are.
5. The less psychologically disturbed they are.

Evolution of the problem.--The writer's interest in this research grew out of reading published materials, talking with young adults and listening to expressions of concern about the "new morality" of this generation of students. It is my belief that through research of this nature, new insight can be gained that may prove to be helpful in counseling college students.

After conversations with several young people in which the question of what does one look for in a marriage partner was discussed, it was decided that a study of such would indicate the thinking of one segment of the population about the matter. It was felt that such an answer

¹
Ibid., p. 307.

²
Ibid., p. 310.

would entail much personal consideration and the placing of personal values that a universal answer could not be given. Since this may be a question from many young people, it would be helpful and interesting to pool their thinking on factors that make for marital success.

Statement of the problem.--The problem involved in this study was to survey opinions held by college students toward certain factors which are generally considered to be related to successful marriages. The purpose of this research was to ascertain the opinions of one hundred college students toward the importance of money, religion, personality traits, and premarital sexual relations in building a successful marriage. The specific purposes of the research were:

1. To discover the value placed upon money as a determiner of marital happiness.
2. To ascertain the attitudes of the subjects toward religion as an influence in marriage.
3. To identify the personality traits college students desire in marital partners.
4. To determine the attitudes of college students toward premarital sexual relationships and the importance of the same in determining the success of marriage.

Limitations of the study.--The data gathered will only concern the subjects of this specific locale. It is understood that this will not be representative of students throughout the United States and will not be extended beyond the incidental sample.

Definition of terms.--For the purpose of clarity the following terms are identified:

1. Personality traits are exhibitions of behavior that are distinguishing characteristics of each individual.
2. Religious faith here implies personal commitment and devotion to a religious belief.
3. Premarital sex refers to sexual intercourse before marriage.
4. Marital success implies satisfactory fulfillment of every aspect of the marital union.

Locale and period of the study.--The study was undertaken during the academic year 1967-68. The subjects were male and female seniors enrolled during this period in four undergraduate institutions which are located in a metropolitan area situated in the southeastern section of the United States. Being metropolitan, the area offers many and varied opportunities and well affords the possibilities of meeting a diversified group of people.

Description of the subjects.--The subjects represented an incidental sample of the subjects enrolled in the colleges. There were fifty men and fifty women whose median age was twenty-one. They were all seniors anticipating graduation at the end of the school year. Of those interviewed, some were engaged to be married before entering the labor market, others were engaged to be married after entering the labor market. There were those who were not engaged but dating steadily with a single

partner and those dating steadily with a variety of dates. There were still those with rather limited social activities.

Research procedures.--The steps utilized in conducting the study included:

1. The related literature pertinent to this study was reviewed, summarized and organized for presentation.
2. Permission to conduct the study was secured from the proper authorities.
3. A questionnaire was formulated and administered.
4. The reliability of the questionnaire was determined by applying the Kuder-Richardson formula 20. The k-r formula for estimating reliability depends upon item statistics and shuns the arbitrary splitting into halves of an instrument.
5. The results of the survey were interpreted according to the procedures which determined the study.

Method of research.--The descriptive survey research method was used in this study, utilizing the questionnaire for gathering the necessary data.

Description of the instrument.--The questionnaire was constructed to collect the desired data from the subjects by studying psychological inventories formulated to ascertain the beliefs of people about money, personality traits, sex, and religion. As a result of studying these inventories, the questionnaire was built. The respondents were required to indicate yes or no to the questions dealing with money and religion and agree or disagree with

the beliefs in the section on sex and rate the personality traits according to the degree of acceptance: 3, 2, 1; like, tolerate and completely intolerable, respectively. The questionnaire contained these four parts: Religion, Money, Premarital Sex, and Personality Traits with ten items to each part.

The reliability of the questionnaire was calculated by applying the Kuder-Richardson formula for ascertaining reliability. Reliability here is used in terms of the definition set forth by Guilford who states, "reliability of any set of measurements is logically defined as the proportion of their variance that is true variance."¹ By using the k-r formula a coefficient of .82 was obtained for the questionnaire used to gather information for this thesis. For the purpose of this thesis the reliability of this instrument is spoken of as it applies to a certain population under certain conditions and the mean value of the reliability of the questionnaire is one that should be obtained for the instrument if it were measured a very large number of times.

Contribution to educational knowledge.--The need to know and understand young people is great. In an ever-changing, complex society such as exists, this goal is

¹
J. P. Guilford, Fundamental Statistics in Psychology and Education (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1965), p. 439.

not easily accomplished. It is evident from the gap between generations that older adults must first of all know the motivating factors which compel our youth and then understand why these do so.

There is a great deal of emphasis placed on marriage in our society and even more emphasis on why so many marriages fail, not only among young marriages but among marriages of many years. It may be helpful to know what brought these persons together in the first place and therefore understand why they finally part. This data may be helpful in ascertaining that fact. It may also provide information to counselors on the youth and what they consider important for marital success and may serve to provide a comparative basis for them to evaluate their programs and increase their general knowledge of the motivational factors which cause young adults to react as they do.

Review of the literature.--The literature here deals with a discussion of the factors which researchers have shown to be related to marital success and the factors which are related to marital failure. The information is extracted from various studies by some of the most outstanding sociologists in America.

To begin it seems necessary to clarify what is meant by marital success as the writer views it. Herman Lantz

gives some criteria for defining a successful marriage which will be used in this thesis as the bases for assumption.

A successful marriage is one in which:¹

1. Both the husband and wife are happy and satisfied with their marriage.
2. There is a quality of permanence to the relationship.
3. There is good adjustment (including sexual adjustment).
4. The attitudes and acts of the husband and wife are in agreement on the chief issues of the marriage.
5. There is integration, which means that the personalities of the husband and wife interact in such a way as to complement each other for the mutual satisfaction and achievement of common objectives.

Burgess and Cottrell state that the results of analyses of both successful and unsuccessful marriages point out differences with respect to the presence or absence of specific factors found within six broad areas of human experience. These areas are: personality characteristics, cultural backgrounds, social participation, economic status, response patterns, and sexual force.²

¹Herman R. Lantz, Marriage: An Examination of the Man-Woman Relationship (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1962), pp. 154-55.

²E. W. Burgess and L. S. Cottrell, Predicting Success or Failure in Marriage (New York: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1939), p. 27.

At this point it might be feasible to the study to investigate some factors involved in mate selection and some of the consequences of these factors as criteria for selection. Afterwards the literature will deal with how some factors affect marital success.

Campus dating and courtship values and norms are widely diffused, and reflect basic themes of heterosexual association in the contemporary United States. Substantial agreement exists between males and females on what they value in a date or mate. Hill found that men and women at the University of Wisconsin had similar opinions regarding the six most important factors in the choice of a mate. These factors included dependable character, emotional stability and maturity, pleasing disposition, mutual attraction, good health, and a desire for home life and for children.¹

Men and women at Brigham Young University, primarily Mormons, also emphasized these same qualities in the selection of a mate as did high school and university students. These values have greater emphasis on personality traits such as dependability, pleasantness, and

¹
Robert Hill, "Campus Norms in Mate Selection," Journal of Home Economics, XXXVII (November, 1945), 554-558.

emotional maturity than on competitive or materialistic values in the selection of a date or a mate.¹

Christensen reported that men and women showed highest agreement on the ranking of twenty traits considered undesirable in a mate. University of Colorado students were asked to specify in their own words those traits, qualities, or characteristics desired most in a mate. Responses of male and female were similar for the importance of companionability, desirable physical attraction or appearance, social graces, intelligence, and education.²

Robert Blood in a study of students at the University of Michigan asked them to choose among 37 traits or characteristics those items which formed the bases of campus norms governing the popularity of students as dates, the students' preference when choosing a date with serious possibilities of marriage in view. Six characteristics received virtually unanimous approval in respect to all three questions: being pleasant and cheerful, having a sense of humor, being neat in appearance.³

¹ Harold T. Christensen, "Courtship Conduct as Viewed by Youth," Journal of Home Economics, XL (October, 1948), 580.

² Christensen, Handbook, p. 633.

³ Robert Blood, "Uniformities and Diversities on Campus Dating Preferences," Marriage and Family Living, XXIV (May, 1962), 35-36.

The dominant values underlying dating and courtship represent anticipatory socialization for marriage. In summarizing their results various researchers had observed that those factors desired in a date or mate also are¹ highly functional for marriage in the United States.

Blood maintained that college dating is more functional than it is given credit for; personal characteristics are sought which promise to provide a relaxed and satisfying human relationship, one that should wear well in marriage.²

While general agreement exists relative to traits desirable in mates, the male-female agreement differ slightly on some characteristics. Typically, men place greater emphasis than women on attractiveness, youthfulness, or popularity of their mates, her cooking or house-keeping ability, and her desire for home and children. In contrast, women put more emphasis on the ambition or industriousness of their mate, his ability and general intelligence, his financial prospects, on similar backgrounds for the partner, on chastity, and on his social³ graces and refinement.

¹Ibid.

²Ibid., p. 41.

³Christensen, Handbook, p. 634.

Ernest W. Burgess and Leonard S. Cottrell published the preliminary results of their study and monograph. Data from this study were obtained from married couples by a questionnaire. Approximately 7,000 questionnaires were distributed to these couples. The results represented 526 questionnaires completed by couples who had been married between one and six years. The sample obtained in this manner was predominantly middle class, over half had been to college, 56 per cent had no children and only 10 percent had two or more, the median age of husbands was 26.1 and wives 23.4 and 71 per cent had been married between two and four years.¹

The questionnaire contained items about the pre-marital background of the husband and the wife as well as postmarital background items on attitudes and experiences in the marriage. The criteria of success used in this study was the Index of Marital Adjustment. The investigators defined a well adjusted marriage as "one in which the patterns of behavior of the two people are mutually satisfying."²

¹E. W. Burgess and L. S. Cottrell, Predicting Success or Failure in Marriage (New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1938), p. 28.

²Ibid., p. 35.

The authors pointed out some objection to using the happiness question (asked for an appraisal of the marriage as very happy, happy, average, unhappy, or very unhappy) by itself as a criterion, such as its subjective nature, that it might be defined in various ways by different people, that husband and wife might rate the marriage differently, and that there might be a halo effect in the rating. However, it was believed to be the most valid single indication of the happiness of marriage for their purpose. Their analysis indicated that responses to the question had considerable reliability.¹

The mean adjustment score of the 526 couples used in the study was 140.8 and the standard deviation was 38.8. There was a tendency for scores to pile up toward the "favorable" end of the distribution with 43 per cent scoring 160 and over, and only 18.8 per cent under 100. The tetrachoric correlation between the adjustment scores and the happiness rating was .92 for the entire sample.²

The five factors they attempted to account for are as follows:³

¹
Ibid., p. 102.

²
Ibid., p. 201.

³
Ibid., p. 272.

1. Impress of cultural background. An index was constructed for the husband and another for the wife from 9 items about their family background: Occupation of father, education of parents, religious preference and participation, economic and social status, number of siblings, etc. . . . Similarity of background and rural vs. urban residence in childhood were also included in this factor. The data were interpreted as providing evidence for the hypothesis that marital adjustment is affected by differences in values and attitudes associated with different kinds of family background of husband and wife contributes to successful adjustment.
2. Psychogenic characteristics. These were thought of as ways in which individuals tend to react to each other, as determined by relationships with family members during childhood. Items of this kind included degrees of attachment and amounts of conflict with parents, size of family, birth order, and attachment to siblings.
3. The social type as determined by the social roles of the persons, amount of formal education, religious affiliation and participation, number of same sex friends, and previous marital status. The results supported the expectation that mature stable, conventional, and conforming, individuals make the best adjustment to marriage.
4. The economic role. This included the question about occupation of the husband and wife at time of marriage, occupational mobility, monthly income, and savings.
5. Response patterns were indicated by age differences at the time of marriage, length of acquaintances and duration of courtship, and the approval of the marriage by the parents of the couple.

Norman E. Himes purports that one of the greatest superstitions of our age is that marriage needs a test of passion. Popular and unscientific literature on sex is mainly responsible for the prevalence of that notion. It is relevant to observe that the most important tests for

gauging the possibilities of a successful marriage are not tests of passion at all but tests of character and personality. They relate to the degree of stability and socialization of the individuals and are very little influenced by the degree of passion in the sexual embrace. There is not even any strong correlation between the frequency of female orgasm in sexual relations, on the one hand, and happiness in marriage on the other.¹

Himes reported on earlier studies of Hamilton and MacGowan who declared in a study of a small sample of 100 married couples, that of the men who entered marriage as virgins, 57 per cent declared that they were happy in their marriage. This was true of only 46 per cent of those who had had previous sexual experience. Of the women who entered marriage as virgins, 49 per cent declared that they were happily married; while only 37 per cent of those who were not virgins so declared.²

Himes also reported on a study by Katherine Bement Davis, an able statistician, who concluded in her analysis

¹ Norman E. Himes, Your Marriage (New York: Rhinehart and Company, Inc., 1950), p. 28.

² Ibid., p. 30.

of the sex life of 1,000 women, mostly of an upperclass, college type, that 15.2 per cent of the unhappily married women had had sexual intercourse prior to marriage, whereas only 2.5 per cent of the happily married women had experienced sexual intercourse.¹

Locke found that most divorced and happily married men had experienced intercourse before marriage. However, a significantly larger per cent of divorced men reported having experienced sex. Approximately a third of the happily married men reported no premarital sex relationships as compared with about one-tenth of the divorced. The story for women was different. Of the married women in the study, 88.4 per cent reported no premarital sexual relations. Among the divorced, 85.3 per cent made the same report. There was no significant difference between happily married women and divorced women in terms of premarital sex relations.²

The study by Lewis M. Terman and his associates borrowed extensively from the Burgess-Cottrell schedule for items to be used in the "Index of Marital Happiness" and for many of the background items. Its primary sub-

¹Ibid., p. 31.

²Harvey J. Locke, Predicting Adjustment in Marriage: A Comparison of Divorced and a Happily Married Group (New York: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1957), p. 133.

stantive difference was its search for personality correlates of marital happiness that could be used for prediction.¹

The data for this study were collected from 792 married couples in the group, under the supervision of a project member. Care was taken to explain the nature of the project and to assure anonymity. Subjects were obtained from the Institute of Family Relations Center in San Francisco, Church and Sunday school groups, PTA's, social clubs, and women's clubs. This method of sample selection was believed to obtain "reasonable representation" of the middle and upper class of urbans and semiurban Californians.²

In his search for personality correlates of marital happiness that could be used for prediction, Terman drew 71 items from the Bernrueter Personality Inventory and 128 items from the Strong Interest Test that had been related with marital happiness. He also added 34 items of opinions about the ideal marriage, giving a total of 233 personality items. He believed that items of this kind would obtain the habitual response patterns of the sub-

¹ Lewis M. Terman, P. Battenwieser, et. al., Psychological Factors in Marital Happiness (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1938), p. 81.

² Ibid., p. 113.

jects and disclose interests, attitudes, and preferences that predispose a person to happiness or unhappiness in a marriage. In his discussion of the relationship of various personality items to marital happiness, Terman clustered them according to traits such as escape, benevo-¹lent, defensive, domineering and self-confident.

The correlation between the scores on personality items and marital happiness was .47 for the 200 husbands and .46 for the wives. The prediction score from the background items correlated with the happiness score .35 for husbands and .29 for wives - a considerably lower relationship than that found by Burgess and Cottrell. The multiple correlation of personality and backgrounds scores with marital happiness was .54 and .47 for husbands and wives,² respectively.

Terman also constructed a scale of sexual adjustment in marriage, which had a correlation of .49 with marital happiness for both men and women. His analysis of the sex adjustment items relate to marital adjustment, but these items, at least in the form he used them, do not contribute to premarital prediction.³

¹
Ibid., p. 114.

²
Ibid., p. 207.

³
Ibid., p. 302.

There is little doubt that personality characteristics are basic factors in happy marriages. Both science and common sense indicate that a moody, touchy, and grouchy person is likely to have more trouble in marriage than a person who is kind, cooperative and charitable.¹

If a composite picture could be made, this is what comparison of happily and unhappily married couples would show:

Happily Married	Unhappily Married
Emotionally stable	Emotionally unstable
Considerate of others	Critical of others
Yielding	Dominating
Companionable	Isolated
Self-confident	Lacking self confidence
Emotionally dependent	Emotionally self sufficient

Lantz gives personality characteristics associated with marital success as:¹

1. A willingness to assume responsibility.
2. An ability to make decisions with a minimum of difficulty.
3. An ability to overcome anger in oneself.
4. A sense of humor.
5. An ability to demonstrate affection.

Winch offers the theory of complementary needs. He proposes that all human behavior is viewed as actively oriented to the gratification of needs. Certain important

¹ Himes, Your Marriage, p. 74.

² Lantz, Man-Woman Relationship, p. 156.

needs are organized by the formation of the ego-ideal. Individual needs are learned and become operative within social groups, into which behavior is directed by cultural norms as well as by individual needs. These needs have great impact upon mate selection. He deducted that "love is the positive emotion expressed by one person in an interpersonal relationship in which the second person meets certain important needs of the first or manifests or appears to manifest personal attributes highly valued by the first; or meets both criteria" . . . He therefore, concludes that, "In mate selection, each individual seeks within his field of eligibles for that person who gives him or her the greatest promise of providing him with need gratification."¹

Institutional influences operate upon individuals, but it is the individual who makes them manifest. The same institutional influences may operate differently upon different individuals. Therefore, it is concluded that personality factors are more important than any others in determining the nature of marital adjustments. "Marital success is dependent upon both people and circumstances -

¹ Robert F. Winch, "The Theory of Complementary Needs In Mate Selection: An Analytic and Descriptive Study", American Sociological Review, XIX (June, 1954), 141.

upon the quality of the persons who enter it and upon the nature of the environment that surrounds it. But the most crucial of these two is people. . ."¹

In regards to religion and its importance in the success of a marriage, Lantz states that couples who display a pattern of church attendance, particularly if they attend the same church have better chances of making a go of their marriage than couples who are members of a diverse religious group.² It is not that many Protestant-Catholic marriages are not happy; some are. But religious differences³ are a source of friction which could be avoided.

A study by Landis and Landis attempted to estimate relationships between various personal social factors and attitudes toward interreligious dating and marriage. They reported that approximately 50 per cent of the 2,000 students in one sample were willing to marry a person of another faith if other things were equal.⁴

¹ Harold T. Christensen, Marriage Analysis: Foundation for Successful Family Life (New York: Ronald Press, 1958), p. 20.

² Lantz, Man-Woman Relationship, p. 156.

³ A. B. Hollingshead, "Cultural Factors in Mate-Selection", American Sociological Review, XV (August, 1950) 622.

⁴ J. T. Landis and Mary Landis, Building a Successful Marriage (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice Hall, 1958), p. 91.

Hollingshead states that next to race, religion is the most decisive factor in the segregation of males and females into fields of eligibles for marriage. In New Haven, 97 per cent of the marriages involving Jewish persons were religious endogamous, as were 94 per cent of the marriages involving protestants.¹

When differences in the economic status exists between partners, cases in which the husband is from the higher socio-economic background have a greater chance of succeeding than cases in which the wife's socio-economic background is higher.²

Other economic factors which have been found to be related to successful marriage are:³

1. Occupations characterized by a high degree of social control.
2. A moderate rather than high or low income at marriage.
3. Gainful employment for husband and wife prior to marriage.
4. A steady work record.
5. Savings before marriage.
6. Agreement on and efficiency in spending income.

¹ Hollingshead, "Cultural Factors", p. 622.

² Lantz, Man-Woman Relationship. p. 540.

³ Ibid.

Burgess and Wallin report that there is a relation between money and marital happiness. They state that full employment, and a high ratio of savings to earnings were all related to marital success. It may be that happily married couples are able to do better financially or it may be that they are happy because they have the things that money can buy.¹

E. W. Burgess and Paul Wallin did a study taking their data from 1,000 engaged couples. The original sample of engaged couples consisted of persons in colleges and universities and were formally and informally engaged to be married. Approximately 6,000 questionnaires were given to contact persons for distribution to the engaged couples. The first 1,000 completed pairs of questionnaires constituted the samples for the study.

They used several criteria for marital success instead of a single composite index. In analyzing the indices used by Burgess and Wallin the items are classified into eight components: Adaptability, Common Interests, Concensus, Demonstration of Affection, Permanence,

¹ Burgess and Wallin, Engagement and Marriage, p. 540.

² Ibid., p. 36.

Satisfaction, and Sex Satisfaction. A correlation of .82 for husbands and also for wives was reported between the marital happiness and general satisfaction.¹

¹
Ibid., p. 551.

CHAPTER II

Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation of Data

The data collected from the 100 college seniors who constituted the subjects of this study are presented in this chapter. The data are shown in four tables. Each table is accompanied by an analysis of the data and the researcher's interpretation of findings implied by the data.

The instrument used to obtain the data was a questionnaire constructed by the researcher in accordance with the purposes of the study. The questionnaire was administered to several groups of subjects until 100 completed questionnaires were obtained. A copy of the questionnaire is shown in the appendix.

Money as a determiner of marital success.--It is generally believed that money is a very important influence upon success or failure of a marriage. Most research agrees that not only should money in adequate amounts be available but the attitudes of the marital partners toward money is of even more importance. With that in mind effort was made to ascertain the opinions of the subjects toward money and toward some of the things married people do which involved extra money. Those items asked questions about dining out, expensive clothing,

working wives, budgeting and saving. These data are shown in table 1.

Even though approximately one-half of the subjects felt that a marriage could be happy and poor, about eighty per cent felt that being able to dine out and purchase new furniture were essential to marital success.

Evelyn Duvall expressed her concern for the amount of income and its stability when she pointed to the complicated problems faced by families of low income. Extreme destitution is poor soil in which to grow fragrant flowers of marital happiness. Families need enough money to provide for basic physical necessities but they can get along on very little provided they can be reasonably sure of that little. When they are never sure of what they can expect from one year to the next, their morale is undermined, and their economic insecurity¹ is reflected in greater marital unhappiness and conflict. Duvall's ideas seem to be applicable to the subjects in this study. Fifty per cent of these college students felt that stability of income was more important than the amount of the income.

These subjects felt that "keeping up with the Joneses" was detrimental to a happy marriage with eighty-one per cent stating so. This is in agreement with Duvall who

¹ Evelyn Duvall, When You Marry (Boston: D. C. Heath and Company, 1945), p. 219.

also feels that another factor related to money and marital happiness is personal and social expectation. A family with a \$6,000 income which insists on associating with a \$12,000 income crowd will always feel poor and pinched. The wife may feel that she should have married better and the husband that he failed. This situation¹ may easily give rise to serious marital conflicts.

Eighty-eight per cent of the subjects felt that money matters are related to all aspects of family life. Duvall asserts that to the unmarried, sex may seem to be the really important thing in marriage. To those married for some time and face a monthly array of bills, money may appear to be the really crucial issue. Actually the real significance of any individual factor like money is its relationship to the total picture. Money matters are related to all aspects of family life - they affect family² life and it affects them.

To the question of a couple getting married without having saved money, only ten per cent said "yes" leaving ninety per cent who felt that a couple should not marry without having saved some money. A savings can be helpful to the newlyweds in many ways.

¹
Ibid.

²
Ibid.

Of the subjects polled, ninety-two per cent felt that budgeting was important to the well-being of a marriage. Hopefully, these subjects understood the importance and difficulty of budgeting. Learning to plan the expenditures of family income may take some months after marriage, since many women and men enter into marriage with little knowledge or experience in this area.

The subjects seemed to feel that there was a positive relationship between working wives and marital happiness (74 per cent indicated yes and 26 per cent indicated no). Evidently, they feel that a working wife contributes to marital happiness. For persons who emphasize the need for money this attitude is understandable.

Differences over money matters are commonly supposed to be one of the chief causes of friction, perhaps the leading cause of friction in marriage. Generally, the most successful marriages are those between equals. Equals will usually find it easier to change to please their partners. Frequently the poor woman who marries a millionaire (or vice versa) ends up with a sizable income but divorced. While this may be attractive to some as a means of attaining money and even social status, it hardly¹ is a way to establish a successful marriage.

¹
Andrew Erickhoff, A Christian View of Marriage
(New York: The Free Press, 1966), p. 81.

TABLE I

MONEY AS A DETERMINER OF MARITAL SUCCESS

Question	Number of Responses	
	Yes	No
1. Do you consider regular dining out and entertainment important to the well-being of a marriage?	83	17
2. Are material possessions, such as expensive clothes and a new car things that make a happy marriage?	37	63
3. Is "keeping up with the Joneses" detrimental to a happy marriage?	81	19
4. Should a couple get married without having saved money?	10	90
5. Is budgeting important to the well-being of a marriage?	92	8
6. Would you consider buying second-handed items during the early years of marriage?	16	84
7. Are money matters related to all aspects of family life?	88	12
8. Can a marriage be happy and poor?	55	45
9. When considering marriage, should the couple consider the stability of income rather than the amount of income?	54	46

TABLE I--Continued

Question	Number of Responses	
	Yes	No
10. Is there a positive relationship between working wives and marital success?	74	26

Religion as a determiner of marital success.--Considering the lack of regard for the importance of religion in the lives of people today, it is no wonder that authorities in religion and marriage stress the importance of persons of the same faith marrying each other. It is not that these marriages have no possibilities of succeeding, but the adjustment may be difficult. For those who value religious teachings highly in regards to the way one's life is conducted, marrying one who does not value such could prove disastrous. Nowhere do authorities assert that without religion a marriage would not succeed or vice versa.

Table 2 contains data ascertaining the attitudes of college seniors toward religion as an influence in marriage. Only seventeen per cent felt that church on Sunday morning or hearing a sermon was a good thing for his mate. Strange though, ninety two per cent said they would not marry an atheist. Perhaps they do not see the church as being highly associated with religion.

Data pertaining to religion reveal obvious conflict in that it shows seventy-one percent of the students felt it important to change one's religious faith to that of his mate's when it is different and fifty-six per cent (reference to question 7) felt that similar backgrounds were not important. Only twenty-nine per cent said they would not change their faith to that of their mate's.

Thirty-three per cent of the students felt that a religious background was essential to a good marriage while sixty-seven per cent felt that this background was not essential.

While a religious background is not essential to a good marriage, sixty-one per cent of the subjects wanted their mates to guide their conduct according to their religious teaching. It seems apparent that these subjects would not stress a religious background but if there is one, he should live and conduct himself accordingly. A significant percentage, thirty-nine per cent indicated they did not want their mates to guide their conduct according to their religious faiths.

Of the one hundred subjects polled, one fourth felt that success in marriage was dependent upon both partners having spiritual worship and a sense of communion with God. The three fourths who did not agree with this are a significant number. With whom do they commune and whom

do they worship? Has the church failed to appeal to this segment of the population? For those concerned about the future of the church and God these statistics present a dismal outlook.

It is interesting to note that the difference of twelve per cent is not significant in the responses to the question of both partners having similar religious backgrounds. Even though these subjects considered it unimportant for their mates to have had religious training, the similarity of the training was rated as significant. Although it appears that religious training is not the thing that helps make a good mate, the two should have been taught the same things if the marriage is to be successful.

Religion and its importance in a good marriage has not been ruled out as null but these data show that the subjects of this study do not rate it highly in ascertaining one's conduct and for making a successful marriage.

Religion should be a creative force in a marriage and can be so only if there is substantial agreement on its beliefs and practices; otherwise it can become a destructive force.

¹ Andrew Erickhoff, Christian View of Marriage, p. 86.

TABLE 2

RELIGION AS A DETERMINER OF MARITAL SUCCESS

Question	Number of Responses	
	Yes	No
1. After working all week, do you feel your mate could best spend Sunday hearing a sermon?	17	83
2. Would you want your mate to guide his conduct according to his religious faith?	61	39
3. Would you consider it important for your mate to have received training in religion?	27	73
4. Are successful marriages built upon spiritual worship and a sense of communion with God?	25	75
5. Is it helpful to a marriage for both partners to understand life from a Biblical viewpoint?	55	45
6. Do you feel that a religious background is essential to a good solid marriage?	33	67
7. Is it important in happy marriages that both partners have similar religious backgrounds?	44	56
8. Would you change your religious faith to that of your mate's if it were different?	71	29

TABLE 2--Continued

Question	Number of Responses	
	Yes	No
9. Would you insist that your mate become a member of some religious faith if she or he were not?	68	32
10. Would you marry an atheist?	8	92

Premarital sexual relations as a determiner of marital success.--Table 3 shows attitudes of college seniors toward premarital sexual relationships and their importance in determining the success of marriage. The question here was whether college seniors had attitudes toward premarital sex in keeping with the "new morality". Thirty seven per cent of the subjects believe that sex is basically evil, although not evil within marriage. This reflects a negative attitude toward premarital sexual relations. Over one third of the subjects holding this view raises some doubt about the extent to which the "new morality" is accepted by these students.

Thirty nine per cent of the subjects agreed that virginity is an honorable state and every woman should be a virgin when entering marriage. Only six per cent of the polled population agreed that men should enter marriage

without premarital experiences. Apparently, double standards for men and women are accepted.

Dr. Ira Reiss made an interesting comment when she wrote, "What sort of girl does not deem it important to maintain her virginity until marriage? She is likely to be the daughter of a professional - a doctor, lawyer, teacher or possibly even a clergyman. She is likely to come from outside the South, from a city with a population over 100,000. She may be Protestant, Catholic or Jewish, but she does not attend church more frequently than once a month."¹ The researcher is unable to report the extent to which the subjects of his investigation possessed the characteristics reported by Reiss.

Ardis Whitman reported that there does not seem to be any society anywhere in the world, at any time in the past or present that was able to bring up the majority of even one generation of males to adulthood as virgins.² It is evident that these college seniors will not change the picture painted by Whitman.

¹ Ira Reiss, "Premarital Sexual Standards in America", reported by Barbara and Gideon Seaman, "It is Your Mind", Ladies Home Journal (January, 1968), 104.

² Ardis Whitman, "The Changing Ways of Love", RedBook (February, 1968), 122.

Fifteen per cent of the subjects agreed with the belief that adultery and fornication are sins while 85 per cent disagreed. While 89 per cent of the subjects agreed with the belief that sex is properly a source of pleasure within or without marriage. It seems reasonable to conclude that even though one third of the subjects felt that sex is a sin, some of them accepted it as a sin which could be tolerated.

Thirty four per cent of the subjects agreed that guilt feelings after marriage are associated with promiscuity before marriage. On the other hand, 87 per cent of the subjects agreed that experiencing premarital intercourse strengthens the relationship in marriage.

In early 1965, Duvall commented to the effect that premarital sexual experiences seem to be rarely helpful in establishing a good marriage relationship. Feelings of secrecy and guilt only add to the usual difficulties and even when overcome before marriage may result in regret to the point of marital rift after the couple are married. The man or woman who has experienced sex before marriage has a much more difficult time in trying to focus his entire attention on the happiness of his partner, being prone to make unfortunate comparison with others and experiences which involved only physical contact and few or none of the enriching complexities of full married living.¹

¹Duvall, Why Wait Till Marriage?, p. 141.

She went on to say that couples who have lived together before their marriage face the additional adjustment early in marriage of overcoming the doubts and regrets that may beset one or both partners. Some couples, nevertheless, survive premarital indiscretions. When the relationship is a sound one with many common interests, the couple settles down to a married life with a minimum of scars.¹ Obviously, the subjects and Duvall are not in agreement.

Eight per cent of the subjects agreed that the presence of a baby conceived before marriage prohibits sufficient adjustment for the newlyweds. Complimentary to the subjects, 83 per cent agreed that sexual expressions need to be evaluated in terms of their meaning rather than isolated expressions of lust.

What happens to the adolescent who engages in premarital sex? Does he regret it or rejoice in it? Will it hurt him or help him to grow up? How might it affect his marriage? There are no easy answers. Seaman tends to represent the opinions of these college seniors when he expressed his views as follows: What is right for one person may be all wrong for another. The average adolescent might be mature enough to behave responsibly toward his partner and to manage birth control. The

¹Ibid.

union of tender and sexual love in relationships with marital partners is difficult to attain without sexual experimentation and experience during the later years of adolescence.¹

Although Seaman is in disagreement with many authorities on premarital sex, it appears that he expresses the same consensus of the adolescents polled in the questionnaire. They seem to feel that premarital sex is an integral aspect in the relationship that prepares one for marriage. Only when viewed in this perspective will the notion of sex before marriage not have a deleterious effect on the partners during their marriage.

When one brings to the marriage notions about experiences prior to marriage that cause for guilt feelings and make for mistrust of his partner, then premarital sex for him was wrong in the beginning. If kept in the proper perspective and viewed only as one part of the life process, then premarital sex, as all other things, brings happiness and adjustment to the marriage. From the principle stated above it is evident that the effects of premarital sex are idiosyncratic. That is, it depends upon the personality characteristics of each individual involved, as well as upon the circumstances surrounding each situation.

¹Seaman, "Premarital Sexual Standards", p. 46.

TABLE 3

PREMARITAL SEX AS A DETERMINER OF MARITAL SUCCESS

Question	Number of Responses	
	Agreed	Disagreed
1. Sex, although indispensable to the procreative purposes, is basically evil, although not necessarily a sin within marriage.	37	63
2. Virginity is an honorable state and every woman should be a virgin when entering into marriage.	39	61
3. It is desirable for men to enter into marriage without having engaged in premarital experiences.	6	94
4. Adultery and fornication are sins.	15	85
5. Sex is properly a source of pleasure within or without marriage.	11	89
6. Guilt feelings after marriage are associated with promiscuity before marriage.	60	40
7. Experiencing premarital relationships strengthens the relationship in marriage.	13	87
8. A baby conceived before marriage prohibits sufficient adjustment for the newlyweds.	8	92
9. Sexual expressions need to be evaluated in terms of their meaning rather than isolated expressions of lust.	17	83

Personality traits desired in marital partners.--

Table 4 reveals data identifying personality traits college seniors desire in marital partners. Of the polled population 80 per cent wanted a mate who was unselfish, 17 per cent stated they could tolerate this trait and 3 per cent definitely disliked a mate with this trait. Eighty one per cent liked a mate who possessed high ideals, 17 per cent could tolerate this trait and 2 per cent could not.

A mate who is industrious, efficient and of a practical turn of mind was rated highly by 62 per cent of the subjects. Mates who possessed this trait could be tolerated by 30 per cent of the subjects and 8 per cent disliked mates who possessed this trait.

The qualities of leadership and dependability were rated as desirable by less than half of the population. This appears to refute the findings of Dr. Joseph Katz who conducted a study with several hundred Stanford and Berkeley seniors. In his findings the report stated that the average girl hopes to find a man who would be her mate and master; that she also expects a leadership from a man that he is not ready to give.¹ This might give importance to the findings of this study which shows that forty per cent only felt that they could tolerate this trait.

¹ Joseph Katz, "It's Your Mind," Ladies Home Journal (March, 1968), p. 46.

Emotional sensitivity was rated desirable by 100 per cent of the subjects. Since marriage is a union of two unique personalities, each must be sensitive to the make-up of the other.

Success in the marriage relationship is dependent upon bringing to the union the habit of happiness and the capacity to love and to be loved. These are the¹ attributes of an emotionally mature person.

The tally of question six seemed to refute the thinking of some individuals that this is a generation of persons who are happy, carefree and frivolous. Eighty seven per cent of the subjects could not tolerate a mate who was happy-go-lucky and nonchalant. Six per cent could tolerate this kind of trait in a mate and 7 per cent liked this trait in a mate.

Ninety three per cent of the subjects liked mates who would include them in the decision making. A small percentage of the students, 2 per cent, felt they could tolerate someone who included them in the decision making and 4 per cent disliked the trait. This tally could indicate that each person can see the value in himself and this is a quality to be desired.

¹
Duvall, Why Wait Till Marriage?, p. 36.

Question number 10 attempted to determine the attitudes of the respondents toward the number of friends and associates the marital partner should have. Seventy per cent of the subjects preferred that friendship be limited to a few. Only 12 per cent expressed a preference for mates with large numbers of friends.

Happiness in marriage is dependent upon the personality adjustment of each member. Most couples want their marriages to succeed, but wishing happiness is not enough. Marriages which have been preceded by study and careful mate selection and which are followed by skillful handling of adjustments have high success rates.

If the success of marriage is dependent upon the personality adjustment of the partners, then a thorough evaluation of one's faults or shortcomings should be evaluated and understood prior to marriage. Only when one understands those flaws in his personality that might cause conflict in marriage can he direct his attention to handling those flaws so that they will not cause deterioration in the building of success in the marital relationship.

To be happy is a never ending struggle for both partners. Therefore, adjustment and readjustment will be constant. Happiness is of such abstraction that it may be viewed differently by each partner causing the two to evaluate the quality as it pertains to them.

TABLE 4

IDENTIFYING PERSONALITY TRAITS COLLEGE STUDENTS
DESIRE IN MARITAL PARTNERS

Question	Number of Responses		
	*3	2	1
1. For a mate, I like someone who is unselfish.	80	17	3
2. I think my mate should possess high ideals.	81	17	2
3. I like a mate who is efficient, industrious, and of a practical turn of mind.	62	30	8
4. For a mate, I like a person who possesses qualities of leadership and organizing ability.	42	40	18
5. I like a mate who shows emotional sensitivity.	100	0	0
6. I would choose a happy-go-lucky, nonchalant person as a mate.	7	6	87
7. I would like my mate to be someone I can lean on during troubled times.	95	0	5
8. I'd like my mate to help make important decisions only with my help.	93	3	4

*On this section of the questionnaire the subjects were instructed to rate the traits 3 if this kind of trait is liked, 2 if this kind of trait can be tolerated, and 1 if this trait is definitely disliked.

TABLE 4--Continued

Question	Number of Responses		
	3	2	1
9. For a mate, I'd like a person who acts on impulses of the moment.	20	18	62
10. I'd like my mate to have a few close friends and associates.	86	13	1

CHAPTER III

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to handle the business of living, man has invented and developed a range of social institutions. Although many needs find their expression in organizations, voluntary associations, and small groups, there remains a good deal of behavior influenced by the long lasting systems called institutions.¹ One of those established human institutions, marriage, has been looked at in this study in relationship to the adolescents in the society.

Although quite a few studies have been made on two factors considered in this study, premarital sex and money interests of adolescents, little has been done in the areas of what this population considers important for marital success. Many studies indicate that adolescents hold sex and money high on the lists of their interests. Since there are many factors adolescents consider as important, the writer feels that it would be noteworthy to focus these interests to a specific phenomenon. To the lists of sex and money, religion and personality traits were added in reference to factors related to marital success.

¹
Berelson, Human Behavior, p. 383.

This chapter is intended to summarize the study, methodology and related literature, as well as bring into focus the findings, conclusions, implications, and recommendations which have been derived therefrom.

Problem and methodology.--This study was designed to find out if the factors, personality, money, religion and premarital sex were important in building successful marriages as perceived by college students. Specifically the study proposed to:

1. Ascertain the opinion of one hundred college students toward the importance of money, religion, personality traits and premarital sexual relations in building successful marriages.
2. To draw implications for guidance in a counseling situation as they relate to the decision making process.
3. To analyze the findings from the data and set forth whatever conclusions, implications and recommendations the research warrants.

In order to accomplish the specific purposes stated in the study, the survey method was utilized. A questionnaire was formulated. This was used to collect data from the one hundred seniors enrolled in four colleges during the academic year 1967-68. The questionnaire consisted of forty items. See the following pages for a copy of the questionnaire.

Summary of related literature.--The studies in this study that were found to be pertinent covered a period of

about ten years. It seems significant to note that there has been an increased growing interest in adolescents and their concern about society and societal institutions in the past few years. Most of these studies were done by sociologists; because of widespread concern of adolescents for social problems. It is not only feasible for sociologists to identify these concerns but for counselors to understand them. The literature revealed that:

1. The qualities of dependable character, emotional satisfaction and maturity, pleasing disposition, mutual attraction, good health and a desire for home life and children were factors considered important for a successful marriage.
2. Greater emphasis was placed on personality traits such as dependability, pleasantness and emotional maturity than on materialistic values or competitiveness when selecting a mate.
3. Responses from both male and female were similar for the importance of companionability, desirable physical attraction or appearance, social graces, intelligence and education as traits desirable in mates.
4. The dominant values underlying dating and courtship represent anticipatory socialization for marriage and are highly functional for such.
5. Factors that make for happy marriages are similarity of cultural background, psychogenic characteristics, social types, economic background and response patterns.
6. The degree of passion and frequency of orgasm during sexual intercourse show no strong correlation with marital happiness. Experiencing sexual intercourse prior to marriage reduces the chances for happiness in marriage and is cause for divorce.

7. In regards to religion and its importance in the success of marriage, couples who display a pattern of regular church attendance to the same church have a better chance of succeeding than couples who display a different pattern.
8. There is a relationship between money and marital happiness; perhaps happily married couples do better financially or they are happy because they have the things money can buy.

Summary of findings.--A summary of the basic findings, resulting from a collection and analyzation of the data is presented below.

Religion

1. An outward manifestation of religious beliefs is not held as important such as going to church.
2. Marriages do not need shared spiritual worship and communion with God to be successful.
3. Insistance that one's mate become a member of a religious faith is rated as important.
4. The quality of atheism in one's mate was deemed undesirable.
5. It is helpful to a marriage if both the partners understand life from a Biblical viewpoint.

Money

1. The saving of money before marriage and wise budgeting of the family income are rated on top of the list as being important for marital success.
2. Money matters are related to all aspects of good marriage, and living beyond one's means is not good for the marriage.
3. Although expensive clothes and new cars are not necessary, regular dining out and entertainment are important for the well-being of a marriage.
4. A marriage can be happy and poor but the amount of income rather than stability of such is more important.

5. Marriage can be happy when wives work.

Personality Traits

1. Unselfishness, efficiency, high ideals, emotional sensitivity, and stability of mind are traits most desired in the marital partner.
2. Impulsive and nonchalant personalities are not desirable for a mate.
3. The mate who has a few close friends is rated more desirable than one who has many friends and is happy-go-lucky.
4. Dependability is a trait rated as most important in one's mate.

Premarital Sex

1. Although adultery and fornication are considered sins, experiencing premarital sex strengthens the marriage.
2. Virginity in women is honorable but neither the man nor the woman has to be a virgin when entering marriage.
3. Sexual expressions are pleasurable and should be evaluated in terms of their meaning rather than as isolated lustful expressions.
4. A baby conceived before marriage does not prohibit sufficient adjustment for the newlyweds.

Conclusions.--In view of the data presented in chapter II, relative to factors college seniors consider important for marital success, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. Premarital sexual experience per se is not a deterrent to success in marriage. While virginity on the part of the female is desirable, successful marital adjustment may be obtained even with the presence of a baby conceived prior to marriage.
2. Money is very important as a contributor to marital success. Having a saving account before marriage increases the chances for success.

3. Strong religious beliefs, as well as belonging to the same denomination, are important factors in marital success for a minority of the subjects of this study.
4. College seniors prefer marital partners who are unselfish, dependable, efficient and emotionally sensible. These traits are generally considered as contributions to the facilitation of interpersonal relations.

Implications.--The following implications were derived from the data of this study.

1. The change that young people today is not change that leads to complete alienation of the teachings of the church, but a despair that leads to indifference to an institution that offers no answers to life's complexities.
2. In the eyes of young people, society measures the worth of the individual by the size of his material possessions.
3. Young people are less apt to think of sex as something separate, but include it as a part of being a whole person.
4. Young people must be taught the facts and techniques of conceptual control.
5. A counselor must understand the societal pressures on youth today and guide them in understanding how these pressures shape their entire beings.
6. A counselor must not bring to the counseling situation those feelings which would cause him to force his ideals, standards and moral beliefs on the counselee.

Recommendations.--The implications and conclusions of this study seem to warrant the following recommendations:

1. The counselor should assist the student in adequately evaluating his beliefs and practices in terms of healthy and profitable behavior.
2. Young couples must be made to feel secure in their own understanding of human sexuality and its careful management.

3. The counselor should establish a reference library of materials on controversial subjects, even by controversial authors on such as those subjects studied here.
4. The counselor should be willing to discuss open mindedly beliefs about the subjects that he may personally find distasteful.

APPENDIX

This questionnaire is designed to ascertain your feelings toward religion, personality traits and pre-marital sexual relationships in relation to marital happiness.

Will you consider each item carefully and answer each one according to the directions given. The results of this questionnaire will be incorporated in a final thesis.

Your time and consideration will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

These questions are designed to find out if college students believe that money is an important consideration in marital happiness. Indicate your answer with Yes or No.

Sample: Yes 1. Do you consider regular dining out and entertainment important to the well-being of a marriage?

- ___ 1. Do you consider regular dining out and entertainment important to the well-being of a marriage?
- ___ 2. Are material possessions such as expensive clothes and a new car things that make for a happy marriage?
- ___ 3. Is "keeping up with the Joneses" detrimental to a happy marriage?
- ___ 4. Should a couple get married without having saved some money?
- ___ 5. Is budgeting important to the well-being of a marriage?
- ___ 6. Would you consider buying second-handed furniture during the early years of marriage?
- ___ 7. Are money matters related to all aspects of family life?
- ___ 8. Can a marriage be happy and poor?
- ___ 9. When considering marriage, should the couple consider the stability of income rather than the amount of income?
- ___ 10. Is there a positive relationship between working wives and marital happiness?

These beliefs are designed to find out what personality traits you desire in a marital partner. Rate the responses 3 to 1 according to your preference. Rate the responses 3 if you like this kind of person, 2 if you can tolerate this kind of person and 1 if you definitely dislike this kind of person.

Sample: 3 1. For a mate, I like a person who is unselfish.

- 1. For a mate, I like a person who is unselfish.
- 2. I think my mate should possess high ideals.
- 3. I like a mate who is efficient, industrious and of a practical turn of mind.
- 4. For a mate, I like a person who possesses qualities of leadership and organizing ability.
- 5. I like a mate who shows emotional sensitivity.
- 6. I would choose a happy-go-lucky, nonchalant person as a mate.
- 7. I would like my mate to be someone I can lean on during troubled times.
- 8. I'd like my mate to make important decisions only with my help.
- 9. For a mate, I like a person who acts on impulses of the moment.
- 10. I'd like my mate to have a few close friends and associates.

These statements are designed to find out if college students believe that premarital relations have a deleterious effect on marital adjustment. The following is a list of beliefs about sex. You may agree with some and with others you may disagree. In the spaces provided to the left of each item, please indicate your belief about each item by placing an A before the items with which you agree and a D before those items with which you disagree.

Sample: D 1. Sex is the most important consideration for marriage.

- 1. Sex is basically evil, although not a sin within marriage.
- 2. Sexual relationships for both men and women are to be strictly limited to the marriage partners.
- 3. Virginity is an honorable state and every woman should be a virgin when entering into marriage.
- 4. It is desirable for men to enter into marriage without having engaged in premarital expressions.
- 5. Adultery and fornication are sins.
- 6. Sex is properly a source of pleasure within or without marriage.
- 7. Guilt feelings after marriage are directly associated with promiscuity before marriage.
- 8. Experiencing premarital intercourse strengthens the relationship in marriage.
- 9. If successful marriages are built on time and understanding, the presence of a baby conceived before marriage prohibits sufficient adjustment for the newlyweds.
- 10. Sexual expressions need to be evaluated in terms of their meaning rather than an isolated expression of lust.

These questions are designed to find out if you regard religion as one factor on which successful marriages are built. Indicate your answer with yes or no.

Sample: Yes 1. Your mate should hear a sermon on Sunday at church.

1. Do you feel that your mate could best spend Sunday morning hearing a good sermon?
2. Would you want your mate to guide his or her conduct according to his or her religious faith?
3. Would you consider it important for your mate to have received religious training prior to marriage?
4. Are successful marriages built upon spiritual worship and a sense of communion with God?
5. Is it said to be helpful to a marriage for both partners to understand the meaning of life from a Biblical viewpoint?
6. Do you feel that a religious background is essential to a good solid marriage?
7. Is it important in happy marriages that both partners have similar backgrounds in religion?
8. Would you change your religious faith to that of your mate's if it were different from yours?
9. Would you indicate or insist your mate to become a member of some religious faith if he or she were not?
10. Would you marry an atheist?

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